



Mussel Ridge News

A Publication of the Mussel Ridge Historical Society

Fall 2009 ~ Issue 3

LOST IN HISTORY

I find that when you start digging into history, be it through old newspaper clippings, writings someone saved, old pictures, post cards, books or whatever, you easily find yourself going in a different direction. Items may be related, but you are caught up in trying to piece together a puzzle. The original subject you were searching for got lost along the way. In my way of thinking this is the exciting part of history, a real passion for me. Although I have been searching for information about an old schoolhouse located at Owl's Head village in the 1800's, called Little New Jerusalem, I have not yet come up with anything concrete concerning the location or even the mention of the unusual name. It seems that schooling or rather education was somewhat unimportant during the early 1800's. More was written about ship building, sea captains, and the ship plying trade. I did find among the papers I was searching, a copy of records for the first Owl's Head School District (1824 & 1825). The record was found in the Log Book of Brig "Joshua Adams", entered by Capt. John Emery.

Notes by Clemice Blackington Pease, 1965: These are the only early records of Owl's Head District I've ever found. The errors in spelling are exactly as the original.

Owl's Head School District – May 13, 1824

Met at schoolhouse to act on said business:

Chose: Zachaniah Post – moderator

Chose: John Emery – clark

Voted: to have eight weeks summer school to begin first Monday in June.

Voted: Zachaniah Post to employ a mistress.

Voted: that mistress board round.

Adjourned the meeting to the first September at the schoolhouse.

John Emery, Clark

1825 – Owl's Head District

Met at the schoolhouse Monday May 23rd and acted as follows:

Chose Joseph Pilsbury as moderator.

John Emery – clark. George Emery – agent.

Voted: to have a summer school begin the first Monday in June next to continue 12 weeks – the teacher to board round.

Voted: to have a lock pute on the school desk by Jeremiah Sleeper.

Voted: to have Joseph Pilsbury assistant to the school agent in case of disturbance.

Voted: that the schoolhouse be repaired by the 20th of October next 1825.



Concluded – John Emery The
Clark

Owl's Head School District – 1825

Said district met at the schoolhouse Sept. 19th and acted as follows:

Voted: to put the inside of schoolhouse doors and windows in good repair.

Voted: to raise \$60 sixty dollars by a tax on —?

Voted: Mr. Zachaniah Post superintend repairing said house.

Voted: to have school begin 1st December, the master to board round.

Voted: that Mr. Zachaniah Post git seven cord good wood to the schoolhouse at one dollar per cord paid out of school money.

Voted: to have a padlock on said schoolhouse.

Concluded – John Emery, Clark

The "schoolhouse" in these records may have been Little New Jerusalem. The following is from a paper written probably in the 1930's by Ella Maddocks. Aunt Ella as I fondly remember her, was born at the Owl's Head Lighthouse during the time when her father was the lightkeeper. She was a schoolteacher, and for six years held the position of Selectman for the Town of Owl's Head, five of those years as 1st Selectman and one as 2nd. She lived in the village in the house now owned by Carol Brown, Aunt Ella's grand niece.

Eight years ago a schoolhouse called Little Jerusalem stood about where Mr. Dolliver's house now stands. Why this name was applied to the school building I am unable to learn. Many children have received their early education here. In those days boys and girls attended the winter sessions generally ten weeks, even after they were grown to man and womanhood, often 50 pupils ranging from age five to twenty one years would be found there. Generally there was a man teacher for the winter session as the big boys deemed it quite an honor if they were successful in breaking up the school and putting the teacher out, often into snowbanks. One instance I have heard about certainly is laughable. A young man had been hired to teach the winter session, there were many large boys who had boasted that they would not allow any teacher to stay through the whole term of ten weeks. As the teacher heard something of their threats he was equally determined he would stay his allotted time. Several times he frustrated their plans, but he knew he must be always on the watch. As he was going to school one morning when he was within about half a mile of the school house a boy leaped out from the bushes, looked around to see that no one was watching him, rushed up to the teacher and said "You know there is a big pool of water under the schoolhouse floor" The teacher admitted he did. Said the boy "I want to tell you that the big boys have fixed a wide board in the floor which is near your desk and over the pool, so that when you step on one end

of it the board will go down and you will go with it right into the water” After saying this the lad dove into the bushes, later appearing at school. The teacher passed on wondering just how he should meet his crisis. He knew there was one boy who was always the ring leader, so he laid plans. He called the school to order and unusual quietness prevailed all the morning. One class after another was called, but was kept from the vicinity of the loose board. Finally the class in which the ring leader recited was called. They were asked to take places at the blackboard, the ring leader to take a place nearest the desk. As he came to the loose board the teacher slid several books from his desk to the floor, startling the boy so that when he stepped back directly on the loosened board, out of sight he went quickly, it seemed as though the floor had swallowed him up. But he was heard in the regions below splashing around in the cold water and shouting for help. The children were very quiet and of course the teacher was much surprised. Finally he lifted the board cautiously, peered into the depths below where he saw a sorry looking boy, wet to the skin and asking to be helped out. He had fallen into his own trap and it was some time before he heard the last of that escapade.

There is much speculation about the location of the Little New Jerusalem, since there were two Mr. Dollivers. “Gus” lived across the street from the Post Office. Some think the school may have been the building he used as a garage and is still standing. I have been told there is also a wet area nearby! The other Mr. Dolliver, “Hi”, lived on top of the hill, on the right, as you approach the village square from the south. (Sullivans)

We will keep searching for information and clues. If any of you readers have knowledge of this particular school, please contact Kay Dodge 596-6879 or email kayed@midcoast.com

FOLLOWING SEAS



The United States Coast Guard celebrates another birthday this August. Depending on where we start this story, they may be two hundred and nineteen years old or only ninety four. Historically, the only place to begin is August 1790, the year congress acted upon Secretary of Treasury Hamilton’s recommendation to

establish an agency to combat rampant smuggling and piracy along the U.S. coast. Ten small, cutter rigged vessels were authorized to patrol off shore; to board and examine the cargoes of all ships entering U.S. water; and to levy the appropriate tariffs. For the next eight years, the Revenue Marine served as our Nation’s only sea force.

Then, from 1797 to 1800 they assisted the newly formed Navy in fighting the French privateers and partnered with them again in the War of 1812. With that die cast, the Revenue Marine (and it’s successors), would be pulled into all subsequent major war efforts, often as a participant from the onset, usually experiencing a much higher percentage of casualties than their counterpart.

Within just a few years the cutter captains were authorized to offer U.S. merchant ships protection from pirates and to sieze any ships engaged in slave trading. Along with their original commission, this would lead to

permanent duty as the Nation’s maritime police force.

In 1863 the Revenue Marine was re-named the Revenue Cutter Service and began winter patrols with an eye toward aiding vessels in distress. Soon after, Congress officially authorized the use of the cutters for lifesaving purposes. By this time, many private life saving stations had also sprung up along the coasts, operating similar to our present day volunteer fire companies. These organizations were well intended, but often under funded and sparsely manned, some in service only on a seasonal basis. The Federal Government eventually took over all private lifesaving stations and established the United States Lifesaving Service operating well trained rescue crews from stations on both coasts and the Great Lakes. In 1915 the United States Lifesaving Service merged with the Revenue Cutter Service, thus becoming the United States Coast Guard.

As the twentieth century progressed, the agency was pressed into service enforcing prohibition laws. The Lighthouse Service was transferred from Department of Commerce into the Coast Guard and the country’s participation in the International Ice Patrol was also added to their “honey do list”. Cutters *Storis*, *Bramble* and *Spar* became the first ships to make their way completely through the icy Northwest Passage. In 1966 the Guard was transferred from Department of Treasury to the Department of Transportation and we began to see the now familiar bright orange slash with crossed anchors logo.

In the twenty first century, the Coast Guard operates under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security with a population of slightly more than forty thousand. Their responsibilities are still as diverse as ever with law enforcement, (fisheries patrol, refugee / alien interdiction at sea, search and siezure of drug smuggling vessels, inspection of vessels for safety compliance), still taking the top spot. Maintainance of the country’s aids to navigation is a close second. When practical, the job of search and rescue may be consigned to a municipal or state agency, but the heavy weather rescues and sundry other chores like, ocean weather patrols, oil spill clean up, ice breaking, assistance to other agencies, regatta or parade patrol, and ceremonial color guard fill their day. Individually, guardsmen often volunteer in a local project.

Any young man or woman searching for a career would find few endeavors more respected than carrying the shield that protects the Eagle. Often, it can be long hours of filthy, noisy work, sometimes in semi-isolation, but rarely will it be boring or unfulfilling. The service practices multi-tasking at a level that could only be achieved by many years of experience. On small units, all hands “...give the ship a clean sweep down, fore and aft”. On a larger base, it’s not unusual for a yeoman or corpsman to handle the dock lines for an incoming ship and Warrant Officers still get a kick out of taking the helm of a small boat. Newly graduated “boots” are encouraged to learn as much as possible about their unit.

For more than two centuries the United States Coast Guard has consistently risen to the challenge of meeting the various demands of a growing nation. The Mussel Ridge Historical Society offers a heartfelt “Well done”.

Owl’s Head was visited by Champlain in 1605, it was called Bedabedec Point, the Indian word meaning “Cape of the Winds.”

“Masher” Mystery Solved!

We had quite a response from our readers (one from Honolulu), offering a description of the Foley Food Mill, a.k.a. “Foley Masher”. People have used it for nearly eighty years to “mash” or puree fruits and vegetables directly into a pot. Most use it for applesauce. Everybody confirmed it’d be difficult to run an unruly kid through one. As intimated in the inquiry, we always figured when Mom brought out the “Foley masher threat”, we had reached our limit. It was nothing more than a warning shot across our bow. Thanks to all who responded. We’ll continue to bring a mystery question and, as always, we love it when our readers share their anecdotes with us.

A Note of Thanks

The Mussel Ridge Historical Society will soon be using PastPerfect Museum Software with special thanks to the Owls Head Transportation Museum for their donation. This collection and contact management software will allow us to archive and organize photos, oral history videos, journals, documents and historic objects. Fund-raising will also be an

additional feature of this software that we will be using. Our plan is to by next year have this information available on our website.

Mystery Photo

Where in Owls Head was this home???

contact Kay Dodge 596-6879
or email kayed@midcoast.com



Business Directory

We thank the following businesses for advertising with us, and making this newsletter possible.

Owls Head General Store



2 South Shore Drive
PO Box 38
Owls Head, ME 04854

Martha Luttrell

(207) 596-6038

PENOBSCOT ISLAND AIR



Kevin Waters

Director of Operations

PO Box 273 ~ South Thomaston, ME 04858

Phone: 207-596-7500 ~ cell 207-5424944

www.penobscotislandair.net

Smith’s Swiss Village

Housekeeping Cottages

Irving & Marilyn Smith

152 North Shore Drive

Owls Head, ME 04854

Tel. 207-594-4039

Fax 207-596-6546

marilynksmith@juno.com

Danforth Construction



Aaron Danforth

596-0602

392 Ash Point Dr. Owls Head, ME

New Construction / Repairs of Any Size / Painting

Rockbound Computer



rockbound.net

156 New County Rd
Rockland
207-596-7803

Carolyn Philbrook, Jacob Post, Arthur Grierson

Serving Midcoast Maine for over 17 years.

Computer Sales, Service, Networking, Tutoring

Computerized Services

Bookkeeping, Payroll, Taxes, Spreadsheets

Linda Post

40 Hendrickson Point Rd

Owls Head, ME 04854

Phone 207-594-7203

Cell 207-441-7203

linpost@midcoast.com

Barbara’s Hair Salon

594-2658



Barbara Fournier
10 Island View Terrace
Owls Head, ME 04854



Absolut Accounting & Tax Services
*Specializing in Commerical Fisherman,
Small Businesses, & Construction Trades*
Deborah M Damon, Sole Proprietor
465 South Shore Dr, Owls Head, ME 04854
Tel: 207-594-8565 Cell: 207-691-8565
Fax: 207-596-0517
E-mail: deborahmdamon@hotmail.com
*Member of Chamber of Commerce, AIPB, &
a QuickBooks Advisor.*



What is it?

Did you know ...

Contact
Kay Dodge 596-6879 or
email
kayed@midcoast.com
with your answer

In 1852 a great improvement in the condition of Owl’s Head Harbor was made by the federal government. Shipbuilding, having been revived at Owl’s Head since 1850-51 by Captain Elisha Brown was extensively carried on by him; a post office was established and he was appointed postmaster. In 1855 there were at Owls Head twelve dwellings, two stores and one wharf. Two ships, one barque and threee schooners were built that season; fishing and farming were also prosperous.

from the book
Maine Place Names and the Peopling of Its Towns by
Ava Harriet Chadbourne

TODAY MEETS YESTERDAY

On July 19 the Mussel Ridge Historical Society treated held its fifth annual picnic at the Old Homestead on Ash Pt. Drive. Town folks enjoyed a variety of activities for all ages. To help set a historical mood, there were demonstrations of working with hand tools. We learned how to cane a chair, saw some old fashioned woodworking, churned our own butter, watched rope splicing and knot tying. But, the “hands-on” demonstration that churned the most smiles was making ice cream, the old fashioned way. An endless supply of hot dogs with all the fix’ns rounded out the festivities. A good time was had by all visiting with friends in the shade of an ancient Silver Maple tree while a live string band provided festive music.

The picnic began in the summer of 2005 as a promotional event for the Historical Society and was such a success has continued every year. Of course, it would not have survived without the donations of time and picnic foods from many individuals along with the very generous donations from Shaw’s, Hannaford’s, O’Hara’s, and Owl’s Head Lobster Co. Thank you, all, for your support.

Name: _____Mailing Address: _____

City: _____State: _____Zip: _____

Email: _____Telephone: _____

☐ I would like to join or learn more about the Mussel Ridge Historical Society. Please contact me.

☐ I am interested in volunteering in the following areas

☐ Restoring Homestead

☐ Writing

☐ Research

☐ Fundraising

☐ One Room Schoolhouses

☐ Preserving the Grange Hall

☐ I have items that I would like to share or donate or stories to tell. Please contact me.

☐ I have enclosed a tax deductible donation. (Please note if you would like it used for something specific)

Please mail to the MRHS, Linda Christie, Treasurer, PO Box 1, Owl’s Head, ME 04854.

The Old Homestead, a historic farm dating back to late 1700, is located on Ash Point Drive and will be open for inspection during July and August every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4 pm.

FROM THE KITCHEN OF:

Sally and Phelps Bristol recently joined the Mussel Ridge Historical Society and soon realized they’d found their niche. As a boy, Phelps had attended the one room school in Ash Point. Sally grew up in Connecticut and met Phelps through a mutual third party. After twenty seven years in Massachusetts raising a son and pursuing their careers, they retired in 2003 and returned to Knox County, Maine. They bought their current house on South Shore Drive in 2004 and spent some time fixing up the place before moving in.

Both have experienced great satisfiion in volunteer work with the local Chamber of Commerce. Sally also serves as a hostess at Montpelier and The Owl’s Head Lighthouse. She recently accepted the task of trying to locate the unmarked graves of our Revolutionary War veterans.

When the Mussel Ridge News asked her for a recipe, she submitted the following which is her own adaptation of a recipe she found in a book. By her own admission, she learned to cook from family and friends, watching the t.v. chefs and a lot of old fashioned experimentation. This recipe is an example of her skills in updating a standard recipe to match today’s healthy lifestyle.

Strawberry Shortcake Biscuits

- 2 cups flour

1 Tbs. sugar
- 1 Tbs. baking powder

3/4 cup fat free plain yogurt
- 1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 cup safflower oil

Pre-heat oven to 400F. Mix dry ingredients with a fork, then end with a well. Mix oil and yogurt together, poor into dry ingredients. Mix with a spatula until forms a ball. Portion 1/4 - 1/3 cup of dough, patting into approx. 2 1/2" burger and place on cookie sheet. Bake for 12- 15 minutes. Makes about six biscuits.
After cooled slice in half, spoon cut up strawberries or choice of fruit— Place top on, cover with more fruit— Dollop of whipped cream.